

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-19, and 21-24 are pending and stand rejected. Claims 1, 17, and 21 are amended to clarify the subject matter of the invention. All pending claims, as amended, are believed to be allowable over the references cited by the Examiner as discussed below. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance for the present application is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-3, 5-19, and 21-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schuster in view of Milbrandt.

However, as amended, each of independent claims 1, 17, and 21 generally recites that the digital subscriber line access multiplexer (DSLAM) is configured to multiplex the derived voice over data signals to and from the derived voice over data termination device.

In contrast, even if Schuster were combined in view of Milbrandt as the Examiner suggested, the combination of Schuster in view of Milbrandt would not result in the claimed inventions, as the claims are amended. Specifically, even if the router 240 were integrated into the DSLAM 270 in Schuster, the IP signals from the ITG 250 would not be multiplexed by the DSLAM-router 270-240 combined device.

Furthermore, the combination of Schuster and Milbrandt also does not suggest that the derived voice over data signals to and from the derived voice over data termination device be multiplexed through the DSLAM.

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 1, 17, and 21 as well as claims 2, 3, 5-16, 18, 19, and 22-24 dependent therefrom under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter accompanying this document is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an Extension of Time under 37 CFR 1.136 and/or any other relief is required, Applicant hereby petitions for any required relief including Extensions of Time and/or any other relief and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. **50-1217** (Order No. **COVDP001**).

Respectfully submitted,



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